In the Baitrani Basin, the Kanpur Irrigation Project on this river is being taken up by the State Government which will moderate flood to some extent. For permanent solution on flood control of this river another scheme is under investigation stage.

As regards Subarnarekha Basin, the Chandill Dam across river Subarnarekha in Jharkhand district is under construction. After completion of this project the flood havoc in Orissa due to this river can be reduced considerably.

The floods in other river basins *i.e.* Rushikulya Basin, Nagabali Basin, Vamsadhara Basin and Burhabalanga Basin are now being controlled by the flood protective embankments.

Water University in Rajasthan

105. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Water University in Rajasthan, the first of its kind in the country;

(b) if so, the kind of training proposed to be imparted to the youth in water conservation, rainwater harvesting and water management etc.; and

(c) the details of other courses to be conducted in the colleges under this university and who would organise the entire system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Viability of Desalination Process

106. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out so far a research to find out the viability of desalination process as a proven option to augment the water resources in the water scarcity areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what other steps are being taken to address the problems of acute water shortage in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute (CSMCRI), Bhav Nagar; Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur have carried out some research work on the desalination process. Desalination is a separation process that treats saline water to reduce the dissolved salt content to a usable level. The cost of desalination process depends on the size of the plant, salinity of water, raw water pumping depth, approachability of site and availability of maintenance facility, design of pretreatment system etc. The water is considered as brackish and not suitable for drinking if it contains total dissolved solids (TDS) exceeding 1,500 parts per million (PPM). The cost of desalination is relatively high.

(c) To address the problem of acute water shortage and to augment the availability of water in the country, storage capacity of 177 billion cubic (BCM) has been created. Another 75 BCM of storage will be created on completion of projects, which are under various stages of construction. Proposals for additional projects are also under formulation/consideration for creation of storage capacity of 132 BCM. To accelerate creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis. For meeting future requirements of water, as a long-term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers wherever feasible, as per consensus between donor-donee States.

Target for Irrigation of Land

†107. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of total irrigated land out of the total area of the country at present;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.